

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A mud resistant assembly for a motorcycle fender, comprising:

an air permeable liner dimensioned [[an]] and configured for attachment to a lower surface of the motorcycle fender;

a backing material adapted for attachment to the lower surface of the motorcycle fender;

a first layer of adhesive bonding said liner to said backing material; and

a bead of adhesive sealant disposed around the edge of said liner for sealing the liner to the fender.

Claim 2. (*Original*) The mud resistant assembly according to claim 1, wherein said liner is made of a synthetic material approximately one fourth of an inch thick.

Claim 3. (*Original*) The mud resistant assembly according to claim 1, wherein said liner is made of a flexible compressible material.

Claim 4. (*Original*) The mud resistant assembly according to claim 1, wherein said liner is made of an open-cell material.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) The mud resistant assembly according to claim 1, wherein said liner is made from an open-cell, polymeric, plastic, foam material.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) The mud resistant assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a second layer of adhesive bonding said liner to the motorcycle fender.

Claim 7. (*Canceled*)

Claim 8. (*Canceled*)

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) The mud resistant assembly according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein said backing material is comprised of a woven mesh of monofilament fibers.

Claim 10. (*Canceled*)

Claim 11. (*Original*) The mud resistant assembly according to claim 1, wherein the liner extends to within approximately 1/4 inch of a lower edge of the fender.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) A mud resistant motorcycle fender assembly, comprising:

a fender having [[and]] an upper surface and a concave lower surface, the fender being adapted for attachment to a motorcycle;

a mesh backing adhesively attached to the lower surface of the fender; and

an open-cell foam liner adhesively attached to the mesh backing.

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) A method of forming a mud resistant protective liner on a surface of a vehicle above a vehicle wheel for preventing an accumulation of mud, comprising the steps of:

preparing the surface for application of an adhesive;

applying a first layer of high strength adhesive to the surface;

firmly applying a backing material to said first layer of adhesive;

applying a second layer of high strength adhesive to said backing material; [[and]]

firmly applying a layer of synthetic, air permeable material to said second adhesive layer in order to form a protective liner; and

applying a bead of waterproof adhesive sealant around said protective liner and said backing material in order to form a seal between the protective liner and the surface.

Claim 14. (*Original*) The method of forming a mud resistant protective liner according to claim 13, wherein said step of preparing the surface further comprises the steps of:

removing loose material from said surface; and
abrading the surface.

Claim 15. (*Original*) The method of forming a mud resistant protective liner according to claim 13, further comprising the step of applying heat in order to raise the surface to a sufficient temperature to achieve a strong bond between the protective liner, the backing material, and the surface.

Claim 16. (*Original*) The method of forming a mud resistant protective liner according to claim 13, further comprising the step of applying a roller to the air permeable material in order to squeeze air bubbles from the adhesive in order to achieve a uniform and secure bond between said protective liner, the surface; and the backing material sandwiched therebetween.

Claim 17. (*Canceled*)